

One Hundredth Anniversary
of the Birth of



Abraham Lincoln

1809—1909

Abraham Lincoln was 6 feet 4 inches tall, thin of flesh, weight 180 lbs., dark complexion, coarse black hair and grey eyes. Great in his goodness, good in his greatness, strong in his simplicity, a human masterpiece, the prince of statesmen. The protection, support and sympathy for the weak and defenseless was the theme of his life, a life which now belongs to the ages, and his name will remain forever the watchword of liberty, brotherhood, and true democracy.



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Abraham Lincoln

(Father, Thos. Lincoln; Grandfather, Abraham Lincoln.)

- Feb. 12th, 1809.** Born in a miserable log cabin in Kentucky, in what is now La Rue County, but was then a part of Hardin County.
- 9 years old **1817.** Came to Spencer County, Indiana, in the frontier wildwoods, 21 miles from Ohio River.
- 9 yrs. 8 mo. **Oct. 5th, 1818.** His mother died in a poor cabin which had neither door, window nor floor, and was far from civilization. Abe attended school here in a poor log hut with greased paper for windows; where, bare-footed and poorly clad, he studied "reading, writing and ciphering" for only 8 months, which is all he ever went to school during his life. The entire library of his youth consisted of Life of Washington, The Bible, Aesop's Fables, and Pilgrim's Progress.
- 16 yrs. old **1825.** Ran a ferryboat at the mouth of the Ohio River.
- 17 yrs. old **1826.** Cleared out a field in the frontier forest, bare-footed.
- 19 yrs. old **1828.** Made his remarkable boat trip with a load of produce to New Orleans.
- 21 yrs. old **1830.** Came to Buck Grove, Macon County, Illinois, built a log cabin, and opened up another farm, where he split rails and fenced in a 20-acre field.
- 22 yrs. old **1831.** Moved in spring to Coles County, Illinois, where Abe built another log cabin, in which his father died, January 15th, 1851. Became clerk in small store and walked several miles one evening to correct an overcharge of a few cents. Walked eight miles to borrow his first grammar. Elected captain in the Black Hawk War, and afterward became postmaster at New Salem.
- 23 yrs. old **1832.** Defeated for the State Legislature.
- 25 yrs. old. **1834.** Elected to the Legislature and walked to Vandalia, 100 miles, to attend its sessions. Elected Surveyor of Coles County, Illinois. Walked to Springfield and borrowed law books of Major John T. Stewart, which he carried back on foot to New Salem. In his first lawsuit he got judgment for 12 cents.
- 27 yrs. old. **1836.** Re-elected to the Legislature. In this campaign he became noted as an orator.
- 28 yrs. old. **1837.** Left New Salem, went to Springfield, lived with Hon. Wm. Butler, and practiced law with Major Stewart.
- 30 yrs. old **1839.** Was a leader in the Legislature in moving the capital from Vandalia to Springfield.
- 31 yrs. old. **1840.** Re-elected to Legislature. Left Maj. Stewart and formed law partnership with Judge S. T. Logan.
- 33 yrs. old **1842.** In November married to Mary Todd, daughter of Col. Robert S. Todd of Lexington, Kentucky.
- 37 yrs. old **1846.** Elected to the United States Congress.
- 38 yrs. old. **Dec. 6th, 1847.** Took his seat in the 30th Congress of the United States. Lincoln was then in the House and Stephen A. Douglass in the Senate.
- 40 yrs. old. **March 4th, 1849.** Closed Lincoln's Congressional career.
- 45 yrs. old. **1849 to 1854.** Out of politics and devoted to law.
- 45 yrs. old. **1854.** Lincoln attacked Douglass in a speech on the Fair Grounds at Springfield, which began their famous debates.
- 45 yrs. old. **1854.** Re-elected to U. S. Congress, but resigned without taking his seat.
- 47 yrs. old. **May 29th, 1856.** A powerful factor in organizing the Republican party at Bloomington, Ill.
- 49 yrs. old. **1858.** Defeated in Senatorial contest with Douglass. Mr. Lincoln said of the defeat, when asked how he felt: "Too badly to laugh and too big to cry."
- 50 yrs. old. **1859 to 1860.** Masterful speeches throughout the country, which gave him great fame. Pure, self-poised, collected and strong in unconscious strength, bearing a commission from God on high, he was heard above the noise of contention and the din of debate, saying: "A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half free and half slave." "As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. This is true democracy."

51 yrs. old. June 17th, 1860. Nominated for President of the United States in the Wigwam at Chicago.

Notified next day of his nomination and refused to follow the custom of entertaining the committee with liquor.

51 yrs. old. June 23rd. Wrote his letter of acceptance.
Nov. 6th, 1860. Elected President of the United States. He said: "I feel that I cannot succeed without the Divine blessing, and on the Almighty Being I place my reliance for support. What appears to be God's will, that I will do."

52 yrs. old. Feb. 11th, 1861. Started on his triumphal journey to the White House.

52 yrs. old. March 4th, 1861. Inaugurated President of the United States.

April 12th, 1861. Fort Sumpter fired upon. Surrendered next day.

April 15th, 1861. Issued proclamation for 75,000 troops.

June 10th, 1861. First battle at Big Bethel.

July 4th, 1861. Extra session of Congress and President's message.

53 yrs. old. Jan. 1st, 1863. Issued the famous Emancipation Proclamation.

1863. The year of great wars, and the nomination of a President. This is when Mr. Lincoln said: "It is not best to swap horses while crossing the stream." He was renominated.

55 yrs. old. 1864. Re-elected President, every state of the Union giving him its electoral vote except Del., N. J. and Ky.

Of this Mr. Lincoln said: "I am thankful to God for this approval of the people, but if I know my heart, my gratitude is free from any taint of personal triumph. I give thanks to the Almighty for this evidence of the people's resolution to stand by free government and the rights of humanity."

He was accustomed to the utterance of such sacred precepts as:

"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on." "Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us to the end dare to do our duty as we understand it." "Even though much provoked, let us do nothing through passion and ill-temper."

In his Gettysburg speech he said:

"In a large sense we cannot dedicate this hallowed ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say or do here; but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated to the unfinished work which they have thus far so nobly advanced, and for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that the government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

56 yrs. old. April 9th, 1865. Lincoln heard Lee had surrendered to Grant, had evacuated the Confederate capital, and Richmond had fallen.

Shortly after, Mr. Lincoln was surrounded in the streets of Richmond by the liberated people, who were shouting: "Glory to God! May dear Lord Jesus bless President Lincoln!" to whom he said: "My poor friends, you are free, free as air. Liberty is your birthright. God gave it to you as he gave it to others. You must try to deserve the priceless boon. Let the world see that you merit it, and are able to maintain it by your good works. Learn the laws and obey them. Obey God's commandments and thank Him for giving you liberty, for to him you owe all things."

April 13, 1865. Grant with his army reached Washington.

April 14th, 1865. Abraham Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth in Ford's Theater.

April 21st, 1865. The body of the martyred President was borne westerward to Illinois. After lying in state a few days in Chicago, reached Springfield May 3rd, and at Oak Ridge Cemetery, two miles from the city, the weary patriot was laid to rest.

Nov, 19-1863



THE LINCOLN CABIN

(In which Mr. Lincoln's father died January 15th, 1851.

His stepmother also died here in 1869.)

This crude log cabin was built by Abe and his father in Coles Co., Ill., when Abe was 22 years old. It is the home he left when he went out in the world to battle alone. The ox yoke hanging on the wall was on the oxen that Abe drove over the wild frontier when the family moved from Indiana. The maul was made by Abe when 21, and used by him in splitting rails.